

For Release: Thursday, April 30, 2015

15-816-NEW

NEW YORK–NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE: New York City, N.Y.

Technical information: (646) 264-3600 • BLSinfoNY@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/new-york-new-jersey/

Media contact: (646) 264-3620 •

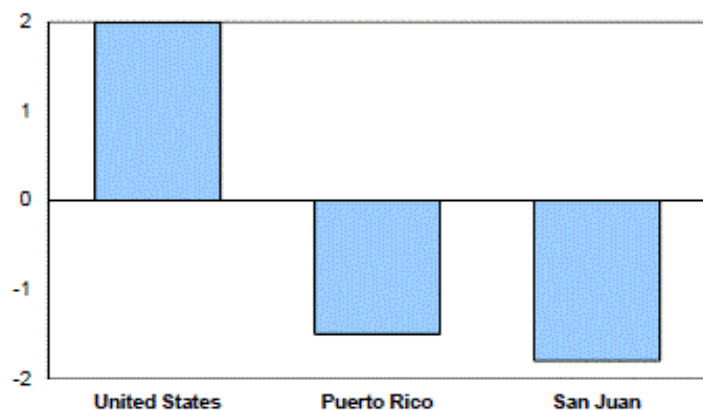
County Employment and Wages in Puerto Rico - Third Quarter 2014

Puerto Rico's only large county, the municipio of San Juan, reported an employment decline of 1.8 percent from September 2013 to September 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2012 annual average employment.) Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli noted that in September 2014, San Juan's employment level of 249,269 accounted for 28.0 percent of total employment in the commonwealth.

In the United States, employment grew 2.0 percent over the year, as 306 of the 339 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. (See [table 1](#) and [chart 1](#).) The 339 largest counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment.

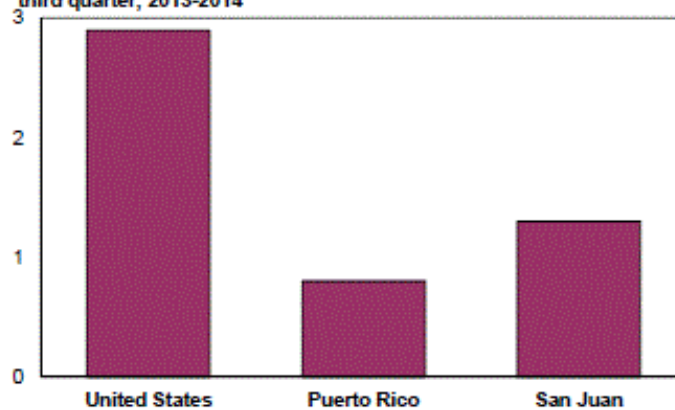
The average weekly wage in San Juan was \$603 in the third quarter of 2014, 1.3 percent higher than a year ago. By comparison, the U.S. weekly wage increased 2.9 percent over the year to \$949. (See [table 1](#) and [chart 2](#).)

Chart 1. Percent change in employment, United States, Puerto Rico, and San Juan, September 2013-2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Chart 2. Percent change in average weekly wages, United States, Puerto Rico, and San Juan, third quarter, 2013-2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 77 municipios in Puerto Rico with employment below 75,000. All 77 had wages below the U.S. average of \$949. (See [table 2](#).) Juncos, at \$868, had the highest average weekly wage. Two other small municipios, Guaynabo and Las Piedras had weekly wages above \$600. These three municipios were located on the northern and eastern parts of the island. Thirty-one municipios had average weekly wages below \$400, with roughly half of these

low-wage municipios located in the western end of the island, including Lares (\$314) and Las Marias (\$306). (See [chart 3](#).)

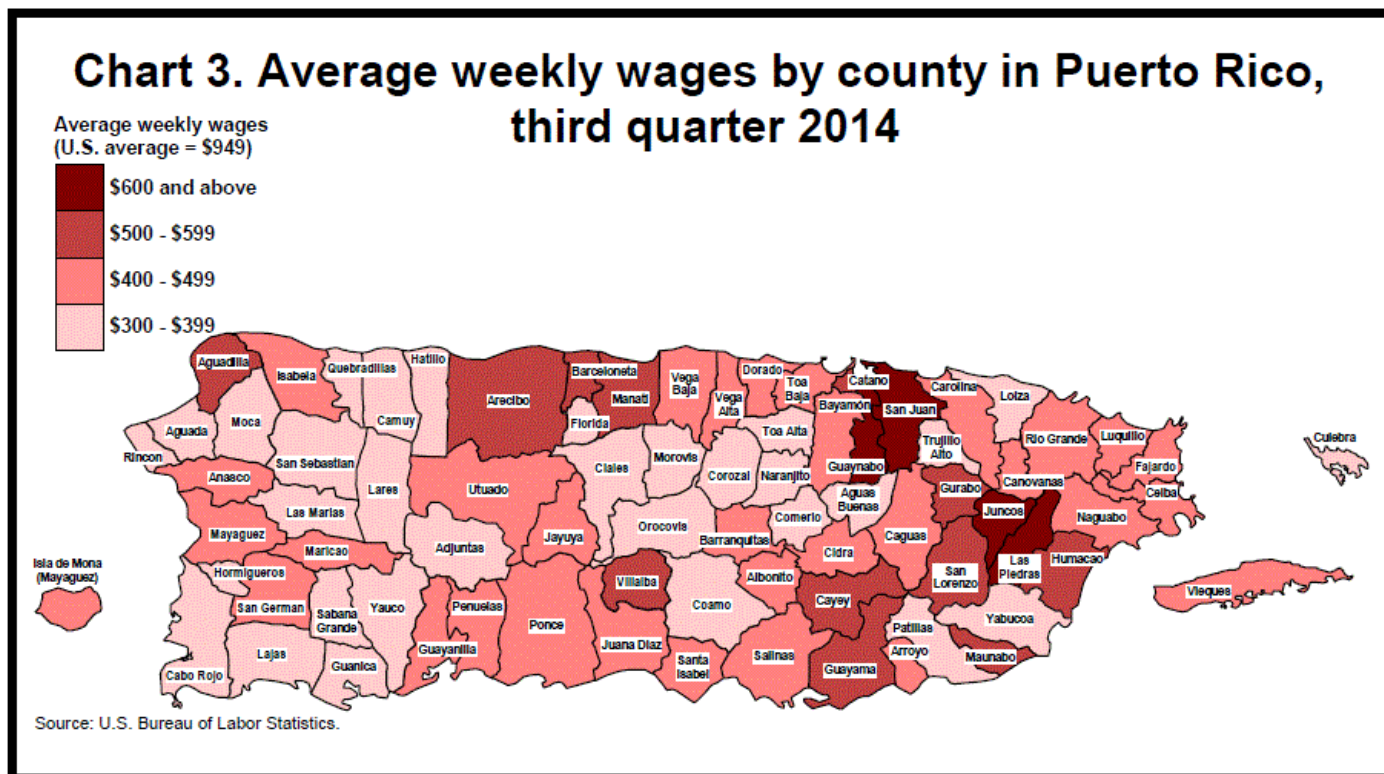
In the neighboring Virgin Islands, average weekly wages were also below the U.S. average. The highest average weekly wage among the three Virgin Island counties was \$738 in St. Thomas. Average weekly wages on St. Croix and St. John were \$710 and \$625, respectively.

Though employment on each island was below 25,000, more than half of the Virgin Island's 37,500 jobs in September 2014 were on St. Thomas, and an additional 14,300 were on St. Croix.

Additional statistics and other information

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit www.bls.gov/cew.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2013 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2014 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn13.htm. The 2014 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2015.



The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2014 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.4 million employer reports cover 137.7 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States, Puerto Rico, and San Juan, third quarter 2014

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾	
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2013-14 ⁽²⁾
United States ⁽³⁾	137,724.1	2.0	\$949	2.9
Puerto Rico.....	896.7	-1.5	505	0.8
San Juan.....	249.3	-1.8	603	1.3

⁽¹⁾ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁽²⁾ Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

⁽³⁾ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Puerto Rico, 3rd quarter 2014

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage (¹)
United States (²)	137,724,117	\$949
Puerto Rico	896,710	505
Adjuntas	1,779	342
Aguada	4,178	340
Aguadilla	17,356	538
Aguas Buenas	1,799	391
Aibonito	5,259	470
Anasco	5,503	454
Arecibo	21,164	500
Arroyo	2,417	496
Barceloneta	9,668	558
Barranquitas	3,194	401
Bayamon	56,226	454
Cabo Rojo	5,922	330
Caguas	46,300	454
Camuy	3,430	363
Canovanas	6,081	436
Carolina	47,432	461
Catano	10,196	587
Cayey	10,355	516
Ceiba	1,068	407
Ciales	1,531	362
Cidra	5,814	492
Coamo	3,767	378
Comerio	1,963	371
Corozal	4,111	366
Culebra	384	338
Dorado	8,185	456
Fajardo	11,872	451
Florida	1,185	396
Guanica	2,192	347
Guayama	10,667	507
Guayanilla	2,112	429
Guaynabo	45,189	630
Gurabo	6,303	504
Hatillo	8,055	349
Hormigueros	2,504	326
Humacao	16,511	523
Isabela	6,469	443
Jayuya	2,737	480
Juana Díaz	6,520	430
Juncos	6,588	868
Lajas	2,829	327
Lares	4,213	314
Las Marias	1,047	306
Las Piedras	5,979	605
Loiza	1,531	371
Luquillo	2,140	440
Manati	14,310	520
Maricao	1,208	416
Maunabo	1,495	555
Mayaguez	31,826	434
Moca	3,527	349
Morovis	2,359	373

**Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Puerto Rico, 3rd quarter 2014
- Continued**

Area	Employment September 2014	Average Weekly Wage (¹)
Naguabo.....	1,823	408
Naranjito.....	2,680	386
Orocovis.....	2,940	331
Patillas.....	1,596	371
Penuelas.....	2,750	423
Ponce.....	49,189	437
Quebradillas.....	2,176	375
Rincon.....	1,614	360
Rio Grande.....	5,707	408
Sabana Grande.....	3,031	357
Salinas.....	3,947	457
San German.....	8,926	427
San Juan.....	249,269	603
San Lorenzo.....	4,263	507
San Sebastian.....	5,231	334
Santa Isabel.....	5,045	406
Toa Alta.....	3,634	363
Toa Baja.....	12,858	429
Trujillo Alto.....	11,131	325
Utado.....	3,775	422
Vega Alta.....	4,496	404
Vega Baja.....	8,109	483
Vieques.....	1,728	441
Villalba.....	3,298	563
Yabucoa.....	2,973	388
Yauco.....	6,177	361

(¹) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(²) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.
Data are preliminary.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2014

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	137,724.1	2.0	\$949	--	2.9	--
Alabama.....	1,871.2	1.3	815	34	2.5	30
Alaska.....	344.7	-0.1	1,019	9	3.0	19
Arizona.....	2,539.6	1.8	876	24	2.0	40
Arkansas.....	1,170.9	1.3	737	47	1.8	44
California.....	16,013.4	3.1	1,095	5	3.7	7
Colorado.....	2,443.0	3.7	982	12	3.0	19
Connecticut.....	1,663.2	0.8	1,124	4	1.4	49
Delaware.....	426.1	1.9	961	16	2.2	37
District of Columbia.....	732.9	0.8	1,631	1	4.5	2
Florida.....	7,748.4	3.3	826	32	2.1	38
Georgia.....	4,059.0	3.4	891	21	2.8	23
Hawaii.....	625.1	0.9	870	25	3.9	4
Idaho.....	658.4	2.1	721	50	2.6	26
Illinois.....	5,807.4	1.2	982	12	2.5	30
Indiana.....	2,924.7	1.4	799	39	1.9	42
Iowa.....	1,528.8	1.1	800	38	3.6	10
Kansas.....	1,363.1	1.2	794	40	2.3	35
Kentucky.....	1,827.8	1.8	781	42	2.5	30
Louisiana.....	1,928.3	1.7	852	27	3.1	16
Maine.....	604.5	0.3	754	46	2.6	26
Maryland.....	2,574.5	1.1	1,042	8	3.1	16
Massachusetts.....	3,386.7	1.8	1,164	2	3.0	19
Michigan.....	4,141.0	1.7	896	19	2.4	33
Minnesota.....	2,757.9	1.1	965	15	2.9	22
Mississippi.....	1,105.0	0.5	697	51	1.3	50
Missouri.....	2,686.4	1.0	828	31	2.7	25
Montana.....	449.5	0.7	732	49	3.7	7
Nebraska.....	950.0	1.1	779	43	1.8	44
Nevada.....	1,215.8	4.0	840	28	0.5	51
New Hampshire.....	633.5	1.4	927	18	3.6	10
New Jersey.....	3,880.4	0.8	1,087	6	1.7	47
New Mexico.....	804.0	1.1	786	41	2.6	26
New York.....	8,902.1	2.0	1,145	3	3.2	15
North Carolina.....	4,085.5	1.9	839	29	2.8	23
North Dakota.....	455.9	4.3	977	14	6.1	1
Ohio.....	5,219.1	1.4	863	26	3.1	16
Oklahoma.....	1,592.3	1.0	826	32	3.6	10
Oregon.....	1,752.8	2.4	887	22	3.6	10
Pennsylvania.....	5,676.2	1.0	937	17	2.6	26
Rhode Island.....	471.8	1.4	895	20	1.8	44
South Carolina.....	1,902.7	2.4	768	45	2.4	33
South Dakota.....	415.8	1.7	733	48	3.7	7
Tennessee.....	2,775.5	2.4	837	30	2.1	38
Texas.....	11,433.6	3.1	988	11	3.8	6
Utah.....	1,304.7	3.1	803	37	1.5	48
Vermont.....	306.5	1.2	805	36	2.3	35
Virginia.....	3,667.9	0.6	989	10	2.0	40
Washington.....	3,112.8	3.2	1,087	6	3.9	4
West Virginia.....	709.3	-0.2	778	44	3.5	14
Wisconsin.....	2,783.1	1.1	808	35	1.9	42
Wyoming.....	291.3	1.7	877	23	4.4	3

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2014 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
Puerto Rico.....	896.7	-1.5	505	(3)	0.8	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	37.5	-1.0	720	(3)	2.0	(3)

⁽¹⁾ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁽²⁾ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

⁽³⁾ Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.